

The Settlement Sector: Values & Principals

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Lisa Randall

Program Manager, Settlement Workers in Schools

CultureLink Settlement and Community Services

The Settlement Sector A Brief History

Canada's history of immigration is a long and complicated history

- The first waves of immigrants were French and English
- In 1830 Canadian governments began to fund and regulate charities
- Charities which were largely faith groups, had the social role of looking after those less fortunate, poor and who were facing difficult life circumstances
- Immigration continued and by the 1950's waves of immigrants began to arrive from all over the world to settle in Canada
- Many newcomers arrived as a result of war and displacement
- Canada began to develop policies to attract people to come and work in Canada with the hope of immigrating and making a life here

<https://thephilanthropist.ca/2004/10/charity-and-public-welfare-in-history-a-look-at-ontario-1830-1950/>

Immigrant settlement and adaptation program (ISAP)

In response to the ongoing and large numbers of newcomers arriving to make Canada their home, along with the increasing diversity among those arriving, the federal government organized to more fully respond to the needs of immigrants and

In 1973, a **Settlement Branch** was created within the Department of Manpower and Immigration

In 1974 the federal government of Canada launched the ISAP Program.

This established and funded settlement organizations to support the adaptation and settlement of newcomers to Canada. The focus of ISAP was to:

- ▶ Assist new immigrants make as smooth a transition as possible to their new life in Canada;
- ▶ Provide newcomers with the information and knowledge they need to be able to *independently* make the best decisions to meet their basic settlement needs; and
- ▶ assist newcomers successfully adapt to their new life in Canada

<http://ccrweb.ca/en/hundred-years-immigration-canada-part-2>

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/evaluation/isap/2011/section2.asp>

- ▶ The federal government set the policy for program delivery in an effort to provide consistent settlement activities across the country that adhere to established operational guidelines and standards
- ▶ Programs are federally driven but tailored for the communities they serve with some activity modifications
- ▶ There is a focus on the welcoming community as key players in assisting newcomers establish new lives in Canada successfully.
- ▶ Ongoing research is valued to stay abreast of emerging issues and needs and more fully understand the impacts of immigration on different groups of immigrants.
- ▶ The settlement sector is now a well-established community of practice that plays a critical role in welcoming and assisting newcomers settle, engages in critical research and advocacy and encourages growth and development of sector workers while expanding our sector and organizational responses to current immigration issues.

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/evaluation/isap/2011/section2.asp>

Settlement services thrive today as a large part of the non-profit sector in Canada. What are settlement services?

Settlement services are federally and provincially government funded programs available Canada-wide.

These services are designed to assist newcomers arriving in Canada access appropriate support and access to information that will help them settle more quickly and smoothly into their new lives in Canada.

What kinds of services are available?

Settlement services include:

- ▶ Interpretation and translation of documents, or help to arrange these services
- ▶ Help filling out forms and applications
- ▶ English as a Second Language (ESL) classes
- ▶ Help finding a job or training
- ▶ Information about other community services, schools and health care
- ▶ Assisting newcomers become better connected to their communities

These services are often **free**. They are always **confidential**.

Guiding values within the settlement sector

- Focus on creating bridging opportunities from settlement to other sectors to expand opportunities for immigrants
- Engaging in cultural bridging to help newcomers and the welcoming Canadian community better understand each other's culture and social practices and norms
- Enhancing acceptance and mutual empathy between immigrants and established Canadians
- Encouraging immigrants to make decisions for themselves with full information and access to resources
- Settlement sector share some of the values of social work
- Confidentiality, self-determination, respect, boundaries - to allow clients to be empowered to make the best decisions for themselves
- Avoiding the creation of dependence on settlement staff by empowering clients to consider their life decisions carefully on their own. Follow-up is welcomed
- Today Canada is home to people from all over the world, from all walks of life and from all sectors of business and whose lifestyles vary immensely
- Canada's immigration policy is aiming to increase the number of immigrants annually based on the current population